the UN Security Council on 6th August, 1990 on trade with Iraq, the balance amount could not be realised by purchase of crude oil from Iraq.

A proposal for financial assistance linked with additional export obligation on the project exporters concerned, is. under examination for the unrealised portion of the amount due in 1990-91.

Export **of** dried seafood

479. SHRI S. MADHAVAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that export of dried seafood has been adversely affected because of the high prices for seafood at home;

(b) whether the exporters of dried seafood have submitted a memorandum to Government seeking a ban on consignments of dried seafood sent a;. part of passenger luggage; and

(c) what action is proposed to be taken to help the export of dried seafood?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SHANTILAL PURUSHOTTAMDAS **PATEL):** (a) No, Sir. Export of dried fish was not affected due to high prices for seafood at home as the items exported are low priced having low domestic demand.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. Some of the exporter Association have given a memorandum to the Government that dried seafoods such of sharkfins/ tails, fish maws, beche-de-mers, etc. are exported illegally to Singapore as personal baggages by air passengers from Bombay, Madras, Calcutta and Trivandrum.

This Ministry has already brought this matter to the notice of Central Board of Excise & Customs (CBEC), Ministry of Finance. CBEC has reported that no such instances of export of commercial quantities of dried sharkfins/tails, fish maws and other dried marine products in baggage have been noticed.

Belief provided under debt waiving scheme

480. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU
SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA:
SHRI S. K. T. RAMA-CHANDRAN:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of farmers and artisans who have been provided relief under debt waiver scheme as on 15th February, 1991; and

(b) what is the amount involved?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) and (b) Under the Agricultural and Rural Debt Relief (ARDR) Scheme, debt relief is provided to farmers, artisans and weavers in rural areas. The data reporting system does not generate the information for various categories of beneficiaries separately. However, as on 25th February, 1991, 2. 62 crores beneficiaries have already been provided debt relief to the extent of Rs. 6651 crores by public sector banks, regional rural banks and cooperative banks.

New Saving Scheme **for** retiring employees of Public Sector Undertakings

481. SHRI R. GANESAN alias MISA R, GANESAN:
SHRI V. GOPALSAMY:

Will the Minister of. FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have announced a new savings scheme for retiring employees of Public Sector Undertakings; and

(b) if so, what are its salient features of the said scheme?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE i (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) &